

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONGRESSMAN BLAKE FARENTHOLD RECOGNIZED BY GOODWILL INDUSTRIES®

ROCKVILLE, MD – Goodwill Industries International is pleased to honor Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX) as a recipient of its Goodwill® National Policymaker Award for 2012. The award recognizes a federal lawmaker who has clearly demonstrated support for Goodwill's public policy priorities.

Goodwill Industries of South Texas (Corpus Christi) nominated Farenthold for his support of Goodwill's public policy priority to provide employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities, and his support of the AbilityOne Program, which creates employment and training opportunities for people who are blind or who have other significant disabilities, empowering them to lead more productive and independent lives. Farenthold is a committee member of the House Oversight and Government Reform, which has jurisdiction of the AbilityOne program. The congressman was also nominated to become an AbilityOne Congressional Champion by Goodwill Industries of South Texas and was honored in March 2012.

"Congressman Farenthold has a strong relationship with Goodwill and has personally taken a tour of our operations. He deeply cares about our programs, which impact more than 4,500 people in the South Texas area each year," said John W. Owen, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of South Texas. "As Congress considers modernizing the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, we look forward to continuing our work with and appreciate his support, which benefits the communities that Goodwill serves."

At a reception in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, April 17, Farenthold was recognized and thanked for his ongoing support and influence for issues relevant to Goodwill. The reception was part of Goodwill Industries International's sixth annual Advocacy Day, *Local to Global: Strengthening our Community*.

"Goodwill provides economic energy to this country by giving people with disabilities and other disadvantages the tools they need to reach their fullest potential, whether it's job training, education or other skills training," said Farenthold.

About Goodwill Industries International:

Goodwill Industries International is a network of 165 community-based agencies in the United States and Canada with 14 affiliates in 13 other countries. Goodwill is one of North America's top five most valuable and recognized nonprofit brands as well as a leading social services enterprise (Source: Cone Nonprofit Power Brand 100). Goodwill agencies are innovative and sustainable social enterprises that fund job training programs, employment placement services and other community-based programs by selling donated clothing and household items in nearly 2,600 stores and online at shopgoodwill.com. Local Goodwill agencies also build revenue and create jobs by contracting with businesses and government to provide a wide range of commercial services, including packaging and assembly, food service preparation, and document imaging and shredding. In 2011, nearly three million people in the United States and Canada benefited from Goodwill's career services. Goodwill channels 84 percent of its revenues directly into its programs and services. To find a Goodwill location near you, use the online locator at www.goodwill.org, or call (800) GOODWILL. Facebook: GoodwillIntl. Twitter: @GoodwillCapHill, [@GoodwillIntl](https://twitter.com/GoodwillIntl).

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